

In The Specification:

On page 1, prior to the first line:

This application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/100,979 filed June 22, 1989, now abandoned, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

On page 14, lines 8 - 17:

According to the first embodiment, as described above, separation of the stacked sheet parts 5-i of the catalyst carrier sheet 5 can be suppressed by the metal engaging plate 6 at the central area of the inlet side of the core 3. Therefore, the aperture opening phenomenon which the sheet parts 5-i of the catalyst carrier sheet 5 are separated mutually at the central area of the core 3 because of a flow-in pressure of the exhaust gas can be prevented. Hence, the honeycomb profile in the core 3 is difficult to deform, and thus the cells in the core 3 can be held in [[a]] desired shapes. As a result, purification performance of the exhaust gas can be improved.

On page 16, line 32 – page 17, line 1:

In FIGS. 9, 10, a catalyst converter 31 comprises a metal outer tube 2 having an elliptic sectional shape, first and second honeycomb cores 13a, 13b, and two sheets of partition plates 16, 17 for partitioning an interior of the outer ~~tube~~³ tube 2 into first and second container spaces 14a, 14b being arranged as two upper and lower stages respectively.